

**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor :Akira TAKAHASHI  
Serial No. :Concurrently Herewith  
Filed :Concurrently Herewith  
Title :SHELL-TYPE NEEDLE ...

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 30, 2006

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**S I R:**

Prior to the issuance of an Office Action, please amend the specification as follows: